



The President's Daily Brief

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DAILY BRIEF
25 FEBRUARY 1967

1. South Vietnam

We are beginning to see signs that Communist forces in the Highlands are getting more than usually hard up for food and that the local populace on occasion has resisted increased Viet Cong rice levies. 50X1

Tribal resistance to Communist rice collectors is probably not yet very widespread, but any large increase in Viet Cong demands could have an important snowballing effect. Even before the North Vietnamese arrived in strength, the local Viet Cong units had a hard enough time producing and seizing enough food to keep themselves going.

2. Saudi Arabia

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3. Indonesia

The principal conclusions of the National Intelligence Estimate just published on Indonesia are:

- Suharto and his anti-Communist coalition are clearly in charge and are likely to remain so, at least for the next year or so;
- Sukarno's influence will probably continue to decline, leaving him, at most, only the capability to offer occasional encouragement to frustrated leftist elements;
- There will be major problems of political adjustment. Civilian politicians, for instance, will be in conflict with military leaders reluctant to share power;
- The need for foreign economic assistance--which can only be expected from the US, Japan, and Western Europe--virtually assures continuation of Indonesia's new Western-leaning foreign policies.

4. Soviet Union

The speeches and editorials in observance of this year's Red Army anniversary were marked by obvious reflections of Moscow's increasing concern about security along the Chinese border. Also, for the first time, the Soviets officially confirmed that there had been a shooting incident on the border earlier this month.

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5. Nigeria

It is becoming increasingly clear that the country cannot be put together again. In fact, the danger of war among the fragmented pieces is rising.

Peace talks in Ghana last month failed to result in any progress toward a solution. Relations between the principal antagonists, Colonel Gowon of the Federal Government and the recalcitrant governor of the Eastern Region, are now much worse than before. Both are now talking about, and perhaps planning, military action against the other.

The degeneration of relations between the Federal Government and the East is not the only threat. Tensions and rivalries are growing among a number of heterogeneous tribal and sectional leaders. Between 6,000 and 7,000 US nationals are scattered throughout Nigeria and could be endangered if the trend toward violence continues.

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